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*Cambodia: The Communists may be heavily involved in the outbreak of antigovernment opposition in the countryside.

Kompong Cham, where most of the demonstrations occurred, has long been an area of heavy Viet Cong influence and infiltration. This suggests a degree of Communist sponsorship for the antigovernment activity, although some genuine pro-Sihanouk sentiment undoubtedly exists there. Moreover, the timing of the demonstrations, which took place shortly after Hanoi endorsed Sihanouk's "liberation" program, also adds to the possibility that they were not purely local in origin. The departure of most Vietnamese Communist diplomatic personnel from Phnom Penh is another sign the Communists may have opted for tougher tactics against the government.

* * * *

South Vietnamese Army units, meanwhile, have begun another sizable cross-border raid from the Mekong Delta into nearby Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

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[redacted] First reports indicate the South Vietnamese have pushed two miles into Cambodia and so far have killed 53 of the enemy.

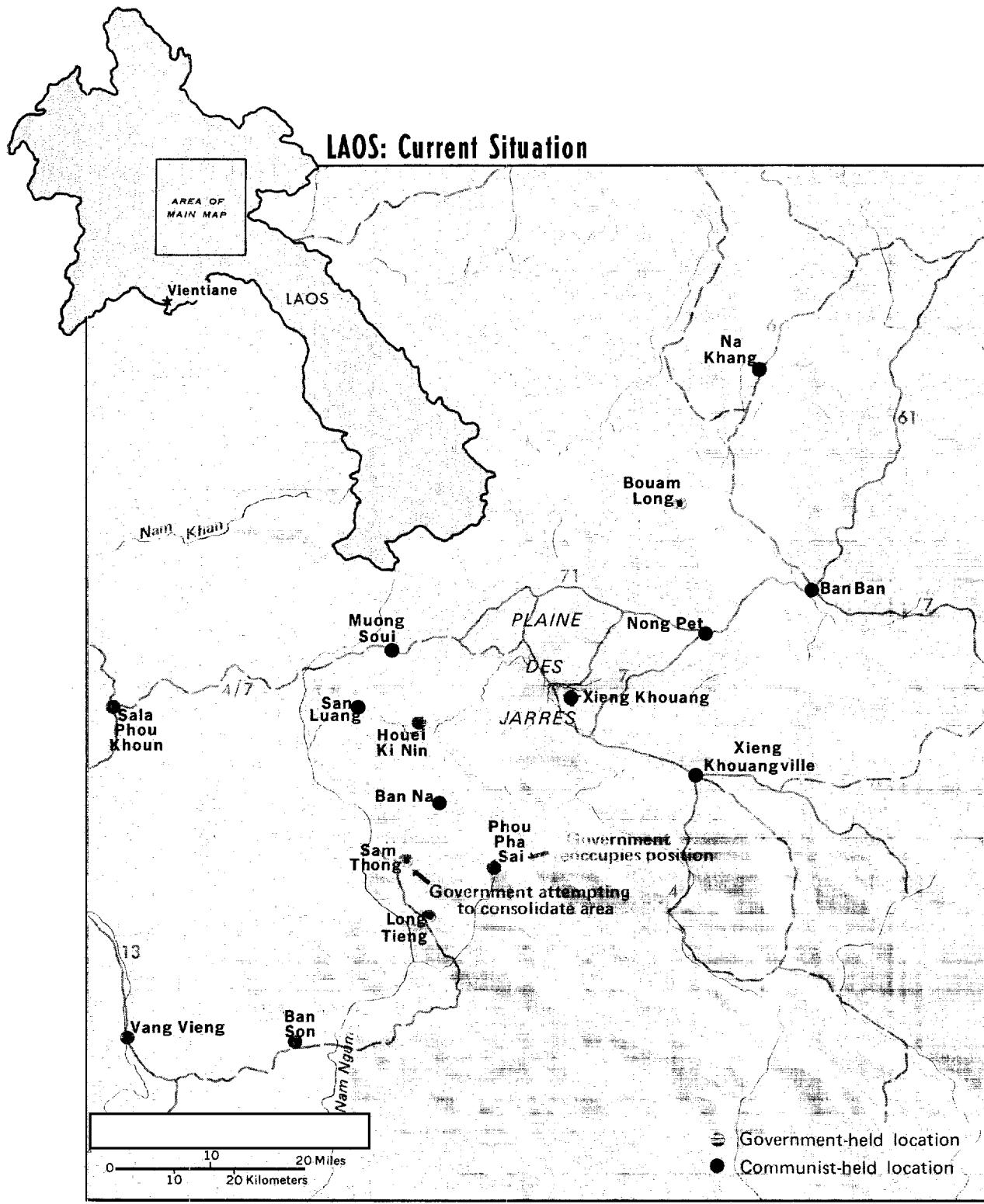
This aggressive action by the South Vietnamese suggests that they hope to profit from the current situation in Cambodia. They probably believe that they may be able to blunt enemy capabilities for future moves into the delta.

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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Laos: The government has taken some initial steps to consolidate its military position in the Long Tieng area.

Lao forces have reoccupied Phou Pha Sai, some ten miles northeast of Long Tieng. In addition, government patrols have begun moving beyond the base's defense perimeter hoping to clear North Vietnamese forces from the immediate area. General Vang Pao also has troops in position to move into Sam Thong and hopes to secure this area within the next few days.

So far the Communists have put up little resistance to these moves, suggesting they do not yet have sufficient troops in the area to contest the newly reinforced government garrison. The improving situation apparently has convinced Commander in Chief General Ouan Rathikoun that Long Tieng can be held. Consequently he has ordered the immediate airlift of three battalions from the regular Lao Army into the area. One battalion from south Laos is expected to be moved on 30 March.

Faced with the presence of close to 4,000 government troops, it is likely the North Vietnamese will have to bring additional troops and supplies into the campaign for Long Tieng.

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Israel-Egypt: Air activity along the Suez Canal has been extremely heavy during the past week.

Israeli aircraft carried out extensive daily strikes against Egyptian positions along the canal. The raids were reportedly targeted against AAA sites and radars. The majority of the strikes took place in the central and southern sectors of the Suez Canal, but Israeli planes also attacked Egyptian radar positions on the Mediterranean and Gulf of Suez coasts.

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Sites under construction near the Suez Canal, which [redacted] are associated with the SA-3s, probably were among the targets hit. Tel Aviv can be expected to continue to attack these installations in the canal area and elsewhere before they become operational.

Possibly reflecting Egyptian sensitivity over attacks against the sites, Cairo broke the restraints on its air force and committed aircraft to the fray on two occasions. Israel claims to have downed nine Egyptian MIG-21 fighters during these air battles. This brings the total number of Egyptian aircraft shot down since the 1967 war to 85. The Israelis apparently suffered no aircraft losses during the week's action.

Cairo also became somewhat more active in ground attacks and claimed to have launched two commando raids across the canal. Israel has denied Cairo's claim of success in the first raid, but Tel Aviv admitted that one officer and three soldiers were killed in an Egyptian ambush.

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[redacted]

Hungary: The government is trying to increase its popularity among Hungarians at home and abroad with a new general amnesty.

Announced on 24 March, the amnesty will permit many Hungarians to make a new start: police records for some nonhabitual minor criminals are to be destroyed, and some persons, still untried for minor crimes, can be relieved of the threat of prosecution. Furthermore, Hungarians whose sole crime has been defection can be amnestied provided they return the country before the end of 1970.

The amnesty also has provisions that technically can reduce or even eliminate all sentences totaling less than five years, apparently without distinction between political and ordinary crimes. These provisions contain loopholes, however, whereby amnesties can be denied to political prisoners, even though they are eligible under other clauses.

This is one of the more comprehensive amnesties Kadar has granted since taking power. As with the others, however, it will take a long time before the real effects can be assessed. In announcing the amnesty, the regime is probably hoping to give a festive air to the Soviet liberation anniversary celebration on 4 April. There are several other national holidays later this year, such as the celebration of the Christian millenium, which make it a joint national-Communist festive year. Kadar is hoping to take advantage of this to increase popular identification with his rule.

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South Korea: Prime Minister Chong Il-kwon may be forced to step down as a result of the scandal that has developed since the murder of his mistress. As yet, there is no evidence that Chong is personally involved in the murder, and the authorities seem to be trying to play down the affair in order to protect him. The victim apparently was involved with a number of other highly placed officials and political figures, and the opposition as well as some ambitious members of the regime are likely to try to exploit the incident for their own benefit.

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Lebanon: The conflict between Lebanese right-wing Christians and Palestinian commandos has not been resolved. Shooting broke out yesterday near another refugee camp south of Beirut and in the center of the capital. In an emergency meeting, Interior Minister Jumblatt was entrusted with the task of restoring order. Jumblatt is the only person in the government who has been able to deal successfully with the fedayeen in the past. If he does not succeed now, the army will probably be brought in. When the army and fedayeen clashed last fall, there were many casualties, and a cease-fire had to be worked out with Egyptian mediation.

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Italy: Mariano Rumor's success in forming a new center-left government ends the cabinet crisis that began on 6 February. Retention of Aldo Moro in the Foreign Ministry and Emilio Colombo at the Treasury post assures continuity in these key policy areas. The political parties will now concentrate on trying to improve their positions for the local and regional elections tentatively set for late spring.

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El Salvador: Congress has passed a law that would sharply limit the activities of foreign banks. One provision is designed to force the US-owned First National City Bank to cease operations within five years. Another would require other US banks to dispose of their minority interests in two private investment corporations. Final prospects for the law are still uncertain. President Sanchez, who opposes the law because of the effect on private foreign investment, may veto it. Momentum is growing in Congress to override a veto, but the new Congress that takes office in June may amend or repeal the law.

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UN: The month-long session of the General Assembly's seabeds committee made little progress toward resolving critical questions about peaceful uses of the ocean floor. No firm agreement was reached on principles to govern exploration and exploitation of the seabeds beyond national jurisdiction. The less-developed countries remain disturbed over the capability of the technically advanced countries to exploit ocean floor resources, but are split over how to combat this potential. Some favor extension of claims to territorial waters; others favor an international body that would control peaceful uses. The committee will meet in August at Geneva to again attempt some agreement on the principles.

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